



**MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO
IDAHO BUREAU OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

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Fact Sheet

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM:

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is a program to fund projects that will reduce or eliminate the effects (costs) of hazards and/or vulnerability to future disaster damage. Unlike the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) more familiar public agency disaster assistance program that helps pay for the permanent repair and restoration of existing facilities, the HMGP goes beyond simply fixing the damage. The HMGP will, within the limits of state and federal guidelines, help to fund a wide range of *new* projects that reduce hazard vulnerability and the potential of damage.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

- State Government
- Local Governments
- Registered Nonprofit Organizations with Like-Government Services
- Special Districts
- Indian Tribes

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicants must be jurisdictions that are participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and in good standing or be located in a community that is.
- Applicants must have a FEMA approved All-Hazards Mitigation Plan or be located in a jurisdiction that has one.

FUNDING CONSTRAINTS:

The grants will be made available to eligible applicants on a *competitive* basis and will be on the following cost share: 75% - Federal, 25% - Non federal (typically 15% state and 10% local). The total amount for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is limited. According to the law, FEMA may contribute no more than 15% of the amount that it will spend under the PA disaster assistance program. In order to select projects for funding, all proposals will be evaluated against state and federal program criteria. Some of the general criteria are listed below.

GRANT PROCESS:

- State conducts applicant briefings in impacted communities following disaster declaration.
- **Letters of Intent** (LOI) to participate in the program are submitted by eligible applicants at a date to be set by the State Hazard Mitigation Officer.
- Following review of LOIs, HMGP applications are mailed to eligible applicants.
- Applications are reviewed for eligibility and site visits conducted as required. Applications are then evaluated and scored by a panel.
- Projects are then recommended to FEMA for approval and funding based upon score and available funds.
- Upon notification of approval and funding, grant agreement between the state and applicant is developed.

General TYPES OF PROJECTS THAT CAN BE FUNDED:

Following are examples of projects the HMGP can be used to fund:

- Development or revision of Hazard Mitigation Plans using 44 CFR 201 criteria.
NOTE: Applicants must have a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation plan in order to be eligible to apply for project grant funds.
- Structural hazard control, such as debris basins and retention ponds;
- Retrofitting structures such as water storage tanks, schools and bridges from seismic, flood or wind hazards.
- Acquisition, elevation or relocation of structures in areas of high hazard.
- Construction activities resulting in protection from hazards, such as rerouting or placing utility lines underground, and upgrading storm drainage and culverts.
- Wildfire mitigation projects to include fuel reduction, retrofitting of structures and fire suppression water supply enhancement.

Generally the project should:

- Substantially reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering from a major disaster;
- Have a beneficial impact in the designated disaster area;
- Conform with federal floodplain, wetland, and environmental regulations;
- Solve a problem, or part of a problem when there is assurance that the whole project will be completed;
- Be cost-effective in that it addresses a problem that is repetitive or that poses a significant risk if left unsolved;
- Contribute substantially to the problem's long term solution;
- Provide cost-effective protection over the expected project life;
- Have manageable future maintenance requirements;
- Be determined to be the most practical, effective, and environmentally sound alternative among the possible options;
- Have the documented support of the local community.

Some of the reasons that projects / applications have been determined to be ineligible:

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- Project application fails to meet requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for adequate public involvement in the development of the alternatives
- Project is for operation and maintenance versus disaster related mitigation.
- Project is the responsibility of another federal agency such as the. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and FEMA's Public Assistance Program;
- Project is the result of deferred maintenance versus natural hazard related;
- Project has an inadequate cost/benefit ratio; and
- When HMGP Project is part of a larger effort, no assurance is made that the whole project will be completed.

Additional Information

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
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For further information, write us at the above address or contact David Jackson, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, (208)-422-3047.